

**Old Abraham Stuck to Middle of Road**

A man and his wife took in an aged and supposedly wealthy relative to live with them, thinking they would profit when the old fellow passed away. Later they learned that he hadn't much money, and they were anxious to get rid of him.

They agreed between themselves that they would start an argument at dinner. The husband would claim that the soup was too salty; the wife would declare that it was not salty enough. They would leave the matter to old Abraham. If he agreed with the wife, the husband would throw him out. If he agreed with the husband, the wife would throw him out. Consequently, at dinner, the husband said: "Rachel, this soup is too salty."

Rachel tasted the soup, and said, "No, my dear, the soup is not salty enough."

"Then," said the husband, "we will leave it to Abraham, and see what he says about it. Abraham, what do you think: Is the soup too salty or is it not salty enough?"

Old Abraham, who was enjoying his soup, didn't hesitate, but said, between sips, "Well, it suits me."—Los Angeles Times.

**Household Pet Knew Purposes of Knocker**

This story is vouched for by one who had been for many years captain of a sailing ship. Several times during the past few weeks he had been called to the door by a "rat-tat" on the knocker just as he was comfortably settled down with his pipe, and on each occasion at first there was apparently no reason to answer the door. One night, however, the vestibule door caught for a moment as he opened it, and left only a small gap of about six or eight inches. Through this gap squeezed the household cat, a fine black one, and he guessed the animal had on other occasions slipped past unnoticed. Fetching an electric torch he examined the door, and found marks showing the cat had climbed up, held itself in position by a grip on the door molding while it raised the knocker, a theory which was later proved correct. After hearing the usual knock, the captain crept quietly round the side entrance, and waited until the cat repeated the operation, then dropped quietly on the mat and looked expectantly at the door.—London Mail.

**Wood for Newspaper**

Since the customary units of wood measurement—cord, log measure or lumber scale—do not represent an exact quantity, the cubic foot solid wood is used. Even this unit is variable as to pulp yield according to the char-

acter of the wood as to species and rate of growth. However, taking the dry weight of spruce as 24 pounds per cubic foot, the commercial yield of 100 cubic feet would be about 2,300 pounds of mechanical pulp, and of sulphite pulp 1,030 pounds. Commercially, news print is made from a mixture of 75 per cent mechanical and 25 per cent sulphite. Consequently, a ton of news print would contain 1,500 pounds mechanical and 500 pounds sulphite. Then 1,500 pounds mechanical would require 66.2 cubic feet wood; 500 pounds sulphite would require 48.5 cubic feet wood; 1 ton of news print would require 113.7 cubic feet or 2,728.8 pounds oven dry spruce wood.

**Was Good to Animals**

Mrs. Sarah Martha Grove-Grady of Tunbridge Wells, England, who died recently, leaving an estate of \$3,000,000, left something over \$300,000 to her family, and over \$2,000,000 for the work of different societies in aid of animals. A great part of the money is to be used for the establishing of "a refuge or refuges for the preservation of all animals, birds or other creatures not human," on some island or on the mainland, where land may be purchased for the purpose, the object being to make the animals safe from molestation or destruction by man. She left almost as much personal property as in her estate and large sums were given to hospitals and other charitable purposes.

**Time and Old Age**

The erroneous, pernicious, but widespread conviction that "time" makes us old, and that age is automatically fixed by the number of years behind us, constitutes a deadly assault upon the human family. Time does not make us old. Time has nothing to do with age. Time is an hour glass—a measuring device—not a force. Time can influence disease or health no more than a yardstick can influence the speed of a horse race. Age is the result of changes brought about in our own tissues through all our own habits of life. Within the limits of variation we can hasten those changes or check them as we will.—From "The Science of Keeping Young," by Alfred W. McCann.

**New Tests for Gems**

A new way of testing precious stones has been devised by the bureau of standards at Washington. An electric furnace has been developed that makes it possible to heat gems and counterfeits to very high temperatures, when their expansion is measured with great delicacy. It is thus possible to detect clever imitations which otherwise might deceive the most experienced eye. Instruments have also been invented that render pearls almost transparent and reveal the cleverest imitations.

London and Berlin have been dancing to jazz from Pittsburgh and Schenectady. The southwest coast of Greenland gets music from New York and Davenport, Iowa. Tall masts of Nauens, Germany, and Louisburg, Nova Scotia, to say nothing of the Eiffel tower and Arlington, keep the ethereal pot a-bolling. Never was the heraldry of the midnight revelry so far-flung, while in place of the famous "navies grappling in the central blue" that Tennyson foresaw we are now to have international action for the establishment of wave lengths and the allotment of the rights to certain regions in the air, says the New York Post. Madrid, Amsterdam and other continental centers are greeting the cosmopolitan audience, which no man can number, and the concert of nations becomes a harmonious reality instead of the polite fiction of the diplomats.

Among the ways suggested for keeping young is the reading of newspapers. It is a good idea. People grow old faster when they get out of touch with our own throbbing present. But if they know what is going on, and get in every newspaper issue a reflection of their own community and the wide world, then they can talk with anyone. They convey the impression of brightness and wide-awake spirit, and people like to meet them. What makes people grow old is the looking back too much at the past, says the Salem News. They dwell in old scenes and lose interest in the present and people lose interest in them. When they read the newspapers their minds are full of interest in this rapidly moving age.

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